



VFC PROGRAM ALERT #1 – January 15, 2013

TO: Vaccine Coordinator, VFC Agreement Signatory, Clinic Manager
FROM: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, Public Health-Seattle & King County
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VACCINE ORDERING – WE ANSWER the MOST POPULAR QUESTIONS

ORDERING

- If you have been set up for online ordering in the Immunization Information System, you MUST use it for all vaccine ordering and should NOT fax in paper request forms (duplicate shipments may result). Each provider office should be prepared to begin online ordering in the month assigned to you!
- You MUST list the inventory and usage numbers for ALL vaccines, not just the ones you are ordering. This goes for flu vaccine as well as routinely ordered vaccines. If you have zero, put zero. Incomplete orders (on paper or online) will not (and cannot) be approved.
- Need help deciding how much vaccine to order? Use the Vaccine Request Form (Excel version) at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/vfc.aspx>. Formulas are built in and will adjust for order frequency and time of year.

THE 5-10-15 RULE

- Flu vaccine: allow up to 5 business days from approval date to delivery.
- Routine vaccines: allow up to 10 business days.
- Frozen vaccines: allow up to 15 business days.
- Monitor your order by logging into the Immunization Information System (IIS). Public Health employees do not have access to additional shipping information.

COMBO VACCINES

- Pentacel orders will be reduced or denied when there is an adequate DTaP or Pediarix inventory. You cannot allow viable vaccine to go to waste. Viable vaccine is not returnable; providers are responsible for what they order. Pediarix allowed to expire may be charged to the provider.
- Pentacel cannot be ordered off-schedule. The January allocation will be stretched to supplement February and March allocations, so it won't all be given away before your turn comes up.
- MMRV cannot be ordered off-schedule. Reduce MMR and Varicella requests after adding MMRV.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- VFC Program vaccines CANNOT be given to adults, with two exceptions: MMR may be given to adults born after 1957 *who are attending school*, and Hepatitis B vaccine may be given to 19 year olds. That's it. Any other VFC dose given to an adult is a misuse of Federal funding. Get permission before using VFC product to vaccinate an immune-compromised adult.
- There is no point in requesting an "urgent" flu vaccine shipment. Flu vaccine typically turns around in 2-3 business days. It doesn't get any faster than that.
- Do not request "urgent" shipments on the last day or two of your assigned ordering period. Urgent shipments are not intended to make up for having forgotten to order. They are intended to meet UNEXPECTED demand or UNEXPECTED equipment failure. Urgent shipments following preventable vaccine storage incidents will also be denied (if you left all the MMR at room temperature overnight, that is preventable; replacement vaccine will not be rushed to you).

Send questions to vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov